

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. Non-elected claims 1-11 have been canceled without prejudice. The specification has been amended to refer to the parent filing as requested.

Claims 12-14 have been rejected as obvious over Fukuzawa, and over Fukuzawa in view of Kawawake. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Fukuzawa has an effective prior art date of September 4, 2001. Filed herewith is a verified translation of priority application JP 2001-192217, which was filed on June 26, 2001. As Applicants now have perfected the claim for priority that predates the effective prior art date of Fukuzawa, the reference is not available as prior art and the rejections should be withdrawn. Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the rejections.

A copy of the translation of the IPER for the parent case is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

S/N 10/693,283

PATENT

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612) 332.5300

Dated: February 16, 2005

By: 

Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300

**Customer No. 23552**

DPM